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AGAWAM

ADVERTISER NEWS

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HUGE TURNOUT at area polls



Voting takes place at Agawam High School last Tuesday afternoon. PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM – Between all forms of voting offered to the public, nearly 72 percent of the town's voters participated in the 2020 election.

Though it was a closer vote, a majority in Agawam chose the incumbent president, Donald Trump with 8,021 voting in favor and 7,725 voting for the Massachusetts winner, and eventual overall winner, President-elect Joe Biden.

Agawam has long been a Republican-leaning town, and followed suit by favoring little-known Republican challenger Kevin O'Connor in his bid to unseat U.S. Sen. Ed Markey. Markey easily won re-election, but O'Connor received 7,924 votes to Markey's 7,455 in town.

One Democrat Agawam voters did favor was John Velis, the new state senator. Velis

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Giving thanks theme for new library project

By Shelby Macri
smacri@turley.com

AGAWAM – The Agawam Library has started the Thankful Pumpkin Project, where they ask patrons to list things they're thankful for for season. There is a real pumpkin in the Library's lobby, where the quotes of what patrons are thankful for will be inscribed on the pumpkin.

The Thankful Pumpkin Project will be happening all throughout

the month of November, giving people an opportunity to participate while they can. Patrons can submit things they are thankful for during their browsing appointments, there are slips of paper with the prompt on them at every service desk. People can also email the library with reason they are thankful or contact them on the social media pages.

Librarian Cher Collins initiated the project and is receiving

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Agawam Public Library has asked patrons to list things their thankful for, those words will then go on a pumpkin set up in the library. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Volleyball action at home



The Agawam High School girls volleyball team hosted Amherst Regional last Monday. Emily Larouche takes a hit at the beginning of a volley. More photos on page 8. PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Foundation aims to assist vets with PTSD

By Shelby Macri
smacri@turley.com

AGAWAM – There is a local resource for veterans at the One Call Away Foundation's Agawam facility, where they offer resources and help for veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder. The founder, David Sutton calls these centers empowerment buildings, as they help those how need it most.

The Agawam empowerment building is open Tuesday and Thursday from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday from 12 noon to 4 p.m. Additionally the One Call Away Foundation has the support and resource of the Massachusetts Military Support Foundation, to help veteran's and their families. The foundation specifically aids in PTSD awareness and further aids in the prevention of veteran suicide. The foundation's

goal is to help make the general public aware of PTSD and to work for the prevention of veteran suicide by offering a hotline for veteran's in distress, provide financial support when needed, and anonymous peer support.


The foundation holds events to help raise funds for their programs and further helping those in need, even during the COVID-19 pandemic. The founda-

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Lions offering meal baskets for Agawam families in need

AGAWAM – The Agawam Lions Foundation, Inc. is pleased to announce our 2020 Thanksgiving Holiday Meal Basket program for Agawam families in need. To apply, please visit: www.agawamlions.org/thanksgiving-baskets

The first 15 complete requests will be honored. Families can request a basket for themselves, or you may request a basket for a family in need. All information provided will be kept strictly confidential.

Each basket will contain items used to prepare a holiday meal. Contents will be based on family size. Baskets will be delivered on Thursday, Nov. 19 to the address provided to us on the form.

To stay up to date on all of the Agawam Lions projects and community initiatives, follow us on Facebook or visit agawamlions.org.

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tion recently held two raffles, where all net proceeds were to benefit the Holyoke Soldier's Home. One raffle had tickets for \$10 and the other had tickets for \$20, with both prizes being picked on Nov. 7 on Facebook Live. The One Call Away Foundation makes updates on their social media page, including fundraisers, raffles, and informing veterans of other resources available.

The empowerment center recently had a large donation of perishable foods that veterans could pick up, having a variety of dairy, meat and fresh foods. The foundation advertised this event on their social media as well, any veteran looking into the One Call Away Foundation should visit their Facebook Page for updates. Veterans are encouraged to stop by the empowerment building in Agawam for any help they may need.

It's important for veterans to know about the One Call Away Foundation as

well as the Empowerment Center, that includes local or out of town veterans at any age and any background. The main goal of the empowerment center and the foundation behind it; is to help as many veterans as possible, in as many ways as possible.

The empowerment center focuses on both physical and behavioral health for veterans and offers programs to help, they have licensed volunteer health care professionals that help to run programs and provide medical help if needed. The empowerment center also offers anonymous meetings for individuals or in groups, to give veterans a sense of security. Veterans of all branches are encouraged to visit or call the Agawam empowerment building at 104 South Ramah Circle or 413-367-8738. For more updates and information on the One Call Away Foundation people can visit the foundations Facebook Page or their website.

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three to four responses a day currently.

"It's slow right now but as the month goes, we'll get more responses. It can be something simple like a cup of coffee, or something deeper or more personal," Collins said. "It's just this year that we've had it, but maybe it could be an annual thing."

Collins further explained that she is friends with librarians from other libraries, were they share ideas and updates amongst each other. She had seen a few other libraries doing the Thankful Pumpkin Project, and thought it'd be a good thing to do in Agawam. This project is a positive idea to get people thinking of things they're grateful for during a hard time, and it gets people into the holiday mood.

"The pumpkin is the perfect decoration for the season, and we'll keep it for as long as we can. Maybe if this is a hit we could look into a plastic pumpkin of some sort," Collins said. "I think we'll collect the slips afterward and promote things that our town and community is grateful for."

Collins encourages people to participate and really think about a reason to be thankful this season. The library is also holding a Bizarre Bazaar, where people can donate craft supplies they aren't using or don't need and others can shop from those supplies.

The library has had this event in the past and is finding a way to hold it amongst COVID-19 this year. All craft supplies that are donated are required to be either in the original packaging or in a clean and clear bag, there will be specific drop off days and these items will go into a quarantine period before going back out on assigned shopping days. "It's basically an exchange for crafts and class supplies, we wanted to

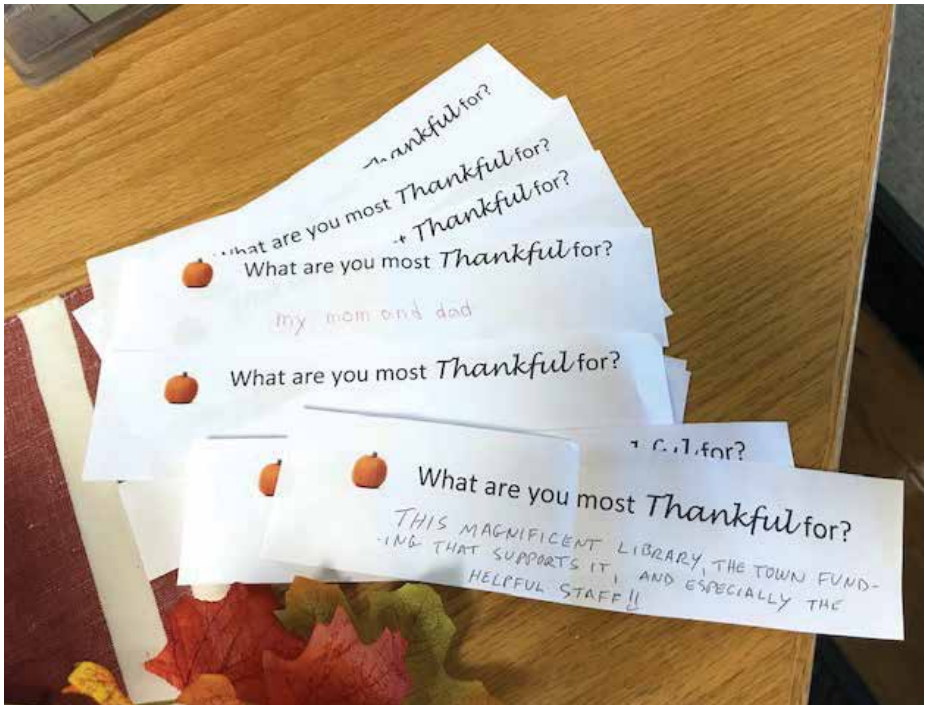


The Thankful Pumpkin Project is to lift people's spirits during this time. SUBMITTED PHOTOS

have a bit of normalcy," Collins said.

There is a calendar on the website for the assigned drop-off and shopping days, there are also examples of the things people can donate. The library already has some bags of donations and they need a few more days in quarantine before the next shopping day.

Things can only be dropped off on drop off days, so patrons will have to make a browsing appointment to leave a donation on those days. Donations have a specific box and cannot be left outside the building. For more information on these events and more, people can visit the library's website.



There are pieces of paper with the prompt, at desks around the library. Anyone is welcome and encouraged to write something they're thankful for.

Early Deadlines

FOR ALL PUBLIC NOTICES
to run the week of November 23-27, 2020

- **Wednesday, November 18 at NOON** for The Register, The Wilbraham-Hampden Times, Agawam Advertiser News and Sentinel
- **Thursday, November 19 at NOON** for Barre Gazette, Quaboag Current, Country Journal, The Journal Register and Ware River News
- **Friday, November 22 at NOON** for Town Reminder, The Holyoke Sun and Chicopee Register



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For more information please contact: Joanne Lyons
Jlyons@massshirecwb.com



Sanchez concludes first half of Applause Series

AGAWAM – The Agawam Cultural Council's Applause Series concludes the first half of its 17th season on Friday, Dec. 4 with the broadcast of a concert recorded specifically for the series by classical guitarist Scott Sanchez. His Bach, Brubeck, Beatles, and Beyond will incorporate classical, jazz, and pop idioms into a varied program sure to please a broad spectrum of music lovers. The concert will be shown on the Town of Agawam's public access channel (Agawam TV15) at 7:00 pm and streamed from the "Watch" button on www.agawammedia.tv for those residing outside of Agawam. Those who wish to watch on a smart device at a different time should email r.kadis@comcast.net for a link for the performance.

Originally from Colorado, Sanchez's playing has been described as "Colorful and poignant" by Soundboard Magazine and "Very engaging, virtuosic and spirited" by David Leisner, Chair of the classical guitar program at the Manhattan School of Music. Sanchez has performed in Europe and throughout North America. His recordings cover a vast repertoire spanning the music of the Baroque era to modern day masterpieces. He has recorded music for the Contemporary Anthology of Solo Guitar Music published by Mel Bay Publications and he regularly arranges and composes for the guitar. His arrangements are available on Sheet Music Plus, a division of Hal Leonard Publications. Sanchez earned his Master of Music at the Yale School of Music and is currently a Lecturer in Music at Franklin Pierce University in New Hampshire.

Production sponsors for Scott Sanchez – Bach, Brubeck, Beatles, and Beyond are the Agawam Special Police and Chris and Sue Catjakis. The Agawam Cultural Council also thanks the Agawam Special Police, Elaine Carlson, Hampden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi, and OMG, Inc. for their generous support as Applause Series season sponsors.

In lieu of the free will donations the Agawam Cultural Council (ACC) normally accepts at the conclusion of all its events, (which support fully 40 percent of the cost of each performance), the council asks viewers to consider making a properly "so-



The 2020 portion of the Agawam Cultural Council's popular Applause Series concludes on Friday, Dec. 4 with the broadcast of classical guitarist Scott Sanchez' Bach, Brubeck, Beatles, and Beyond concert on the Town of Agawam's public access channel at 7 p.m. The performance will also be streamed at that time. SUBMITTED PHOTO

cially distanced" donation to support efforts to "Give Back to the Community" by visiting the ACC web site www.agawamcc.org and clicking on the green "Donate" button. A check in any amount, payable to the Agawam Cultural Council, may also be sent to: Agawam Cultural Council, Town Hall, 36 Main Street, Agawam MA 01001.

For more information on the activities and virtual offerings of the Agawam Cultural Council during the stay-at-home order, please visit their web site, www.agawamcc.org. The Agawam Cultural Council is an all-volunteer local partner of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, and is funded, in part, by the MCC. The ACC is charged with bringing engaging, entertaining, and educational events and opportunities in the arts, humanities, and sciences, to children and adults from Agawam and the surrounding communities.

Juried photography show announced

AGAWAM – The Friends of the Agawam Public Library are very excited to announce their First Open Juried Virtual Photography Show. We are not able to have our annual show at the library, but we want to continue to share the outstanding work of area photographers. The show benefits the Agawam Public Library and provides a platform to recognize and encourage these photographers. Awards totaling \$1340 will be determined by judging done on January 13. Amy S. Dane and Barbara Krawczyk, both well recognized photographers, will be the judges.

The show is divided into four categories

of photography: creative, nature, photojournalism and pictorial. The entry fee is \$25 per entry up to and including November 30, 2020. Starting December 1, the fee will be \$30. If we have not received sufficient entries by January 1, 2021, the show will be cancelled and all fees returned.

All images must be original, made by the photographer, captured by film or digitally, and cannot be previous entries in our show. For the show's Prospectus and Entry Form, please visit www.agawamlibrary.org/about/friends. For further information please contact Bob Kadis at r.kadis@comcast.net or at 413-789-4814.

Full closure of bridge set for this weekend

AGAWAM/WEST SPRINGFIELD – MassDOT's contractor will close the left turn lane on the Morgan-Sullivan Bridge from 9 a.m. on Monday, Nov. 9, through 6 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 14. This closure is necessary to prepare for a bridge deck concrete pour. One lane in each direction will remain open.

Additionally, MassDOT will close the Morgan-Sullivan Bridge to vehicles from 6 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 14, through 6 a.m. on Monday, Nov. 16. The closure is necessary to safely complete a bridge deck concrete pour. Variable messaging boards will be placed in advance of this work.

Pedestrians

The sidewalk will remain open for pedestrians during the bridge closure. Police detail will be present to escort pedestrians during construction.

Vehicles

During the bridge closures, the following signed detours will be in place for vehicles (see detour map):

From Memorial Avenue (Rt. 147) in West Springfield to Main Street (Rt. 159) in Agawam:

Head east on Memorial Drive (Rt. 147). At the Memorial Avenue Rotary, take the first exit toward Rt. 5 South/Longmeadow and merge onto Rt. 5 South. Continue for 1 mile and take the exit toward Rt. 57 West/Agawam/Southwick. At the traffic circle, take the first exit onto the Rt. 57 West ramp toward Agawam. Continue on Rt. 57 West for 1 mile and take the exit toward Rt. 159 North. Continue on Main Street (Rt. 159).

From Suffield Street (Rt. 75) in Agawam to Memorial Avenue (Rt. 147) in West Springfield:

Head south on Suffield Street (Rt. 175). Turn left to merge onto Rt. 57 East toward I-91/Springfield/Rt. 5 and continue for 2 miles. Use the left lane to take the Rt. 5 North exit toward West Springfield/Holyoke. At the traffic circle, take the third exit onto the Rt. 5 North ramp to West Springfield and merge onto Rt. 5 North. Continue on Rt. 5 North for 1 mile and take the Route 147 West exit toward West Springfield/Agawam. At the Memorial Avenue Rotary, take the third exit onto Rt. 147 West. Continue on Memorial Avenue (Rt. 147).

From Main Street (Rt. 159) in Agawam to Memorial Avenue (Rt. 147) in West Springfield:

Head south on Main Street (Rt. 159). Use the right lane to merge onto Rt. 57 East via the ramp to Rt. 5/I-91/Springfield and continue for 1.5 miles. Use the left lane to take the Rt. 5 North exit toward West Springfield/Holyoke. At the traffic circle, take the third exit onto the Rt. 5 North ramp to West Springfield and merge onto Rt. 5 North. Continue on Rt. 5 North for 1 mile and take the Route 147 West exit toward West Springfield/Agawam. At the Memorial Avenue Rotary, take the third exit onto Rt. 147 West. Continue on Memorial Avenue (Rt. 147).

For more information about the project, please visit the project website at: www.mass.gov/morgan-sullivan-bridge-replacement-project. Please send any questions or comments to the project team at: MorganSullivanBridge@dot.state.ma.us. For media inquiries, please contact MassDOT Communications Director Jacquelyn Goddard at Jacquelyn.Goddard@dot.state.ma.us.

COVID-19 testing spot changed at HCC

HOLYOKE — Starting Friday, Nov. 6, the location of free drive-through COVID-19 testing at Holyoke Community College will shift to parking lot H near the western entrance to the Donahue Building.

The change is being made to prepare for the cold weather months, according to the Holyoke Board of Health.

Hours and days of operation will not change. Testing will continue at least through the end of December.

HCC has been serving as a "Stop the Spread" drive-through testing site since Aug. 26 to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. Previously, testing was conducted in parking lot M near the Bartley Center for Athletics and Recreation.

Drivers are now being asked to enter the campus from Homestead Avenue, then turn left onto the Campus Road and proceed to parking lot H. There will be signs and parking attendants on site to manage the flow of traffic.

A map with the new traffic pattern and testing site location is posted

on the Holyoke Board of Health website: <https://www.holyoke.org/hcc-covid-testing-site-to-change/>.

The HCC testing site is open Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.; and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Information about closing due to inclement weather can be found on the Holyoke Board of Health website.

Testing is free to all Massachusetts residents and conducted on a first-come, first-serve basis. There are no appointments and no referral is necessary.

Turnaround time for results is typically four days or fewer.

More information on all of the Stop the Spread test sites across the state can be found at: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/stop-the-spread>

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Opinion

SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

What happens if younger wife is the higher earner?

By Russell Gloor
Guest columnist

Dear Rusty: I've seen examples of how to maximize Social Security, but I've never seen an analysis for our situation. I'm 61 and my wife is 57, but she has been the primary breadwinner, while I just barely made eligibility. Our plan is for me to start at age 62 (\$500 a month) and then switch to my spousal benefit at age 74, when she starts her benefits at age 70 (her benefits should be \$2,500 a month). Are we missing anything? We are both in good health with an average life expectancy but there is a very good chance my wife will exceed the "average." Signed: Planning Ahead

Dear Planning: Well first, be aware that Social Security's rules are "gender neutral" – that is, the rules are the same regardless of which of you is the higher earner. That said, you and your wife seem to have a good strategy, for with her as the higher earner with the highest benefit, maximizing her Social Security payment by waiting until age 70 is an excellent plan. Since her longevity outlook is very good, she should get the most in cumulative lifetime benefits by waiting. Your plan to claim at age 62 is also prudent if you will not be working full time. That's because if you claim before your full retirement age (FRA), you'll be subject to an earnings test, which limits how much you can earn before Social Security takes back some of your benefits.

If you exceed the earnings limit, Social Security will assess a penalty of \$1 for every \$2 you are over the limit and take back benefits equal to that amount. For example, if you were collecting Social Security this year the earnings limit is \$18,240. If you earned \$25,000, you'd be \$6,760 over the limit and Social Security would take back benefits equal to \$3,380. And at your \$500 monthly benefit rate, they would withhold benefits for seven months to recover what you owe. And that's true until you reach your full retirement age when the earnings limit goes away (born in 1959, your FRA is 66 years and 10 months).

At your FRA you would get time credit for any withheld months, but if you're planning on that Social Security income starting at age 62, and you're still working, the earnings limit could derail your benefit income plan. Of course, if you won't be working after you claim early benefits, the earnings limit doesn't apply.

And for clarity, your wife's earnings from working don't count toward your personal earnings limit, and the limit goes up considerably in the year you reach your FRA. If you plan to continue working and the earnings limit is an issue, you might choose to wait until your FRA to claim your benefit. By doing so you would avoid the earnings limit, and you would also assure that you would receive the full 50% of your wife's FRA benefit amount when she claims.

If you claim at age 62, your spousal benefit (when your wife claims) will be less than half of your wife's FRA benefit amount because you claimed your own benefit early. Your spousal benefit will consist of both your own (reduced) benefit and a spousal boost to bring you up to your spouse benefit amount. When your wife claims at age 70, your spousal boost (the difference between your full FRA benefit amount and half of her FRA benefit amount) will be added to your own (reduced) early Social Security benefit, yielding a spousal benefit less than half of your wife's FRA benefit amount. The only way you can get the full 50% spouse benefit is to wait until your own FRA to claim your own Social Security, and later get the higher spouse benefit

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YESTERDAY'S HOMETOWN NEWS

'Life as a Movie'

By the time you're reading this, I will have turned 21 years old. I know: what a year to turn 21, right? That was a bad call on my part. Actually, it was a bad call on my parents' part. No matter! I love them anyway. A lot of folks have described the year 2020 as something straight out of a Hollywood movie. The genre depends on who you ask: some would call it dystopian, others would describe it as straight apocalyptic, and then others might say we're in a zombie film (just without the literal undead). We even had a minor plotline back in June involving secret US documents detailing a UFO encounter from 2004. We can all agree that this year has been so treacherous that it's borderline comedic. So, this week, I'd like to detail a different kind of movie: a true 1980's style Rom-Com.

I've interviewed lots of different characters for this column. Strangers. Old friends, new friends. Neighbors, leaders, bakers. Every story I've heard has been fascinating and rich, but today's tale is deeply personal to me. As a birthday treat to myself, I asked my parents to tell me the story of the night they started dating. We sit down around the table over plates of garlic pasta married to my mom's homemade Bolognese sauce. Even before the story commences, I already know every beat. It's a night I've heard about a hundred-and-one times before. No matter. I'd happily listen to my parents talk about that night a thousand times more.

Roll film. It's the summer of 1997. Exterior shot: Block Island, Rhode Island. Friday, June 27th, to be exact. The soundtrack of that summer and every summer is Sublime, Pink Floyd, and Creedence Clearwater Revival. Warm grey gravel roads filled with beautiful young people cruising around on vespas. Surfers galore crowd the beaches and the bluffs every morning, day, afternoon, and night. From Memorial Day through to Columbus Day, tiny idyllic Block Island is a twenty-four hour rager until the cold weather shoos away the tourists back into their mainland homes for pumpkin carving and warm cider. On the weekend before July 4th of that year, my dad, Bruno Parrotta, made the drive down from Agawam to Block Island on his custom-built Harley Davidson so that he could visit his surfing buddies. Bruno was born and raised in Agawam and could cruise the Pioneer Valley with his eyes closed. By that point, he'd already been working at Parrotta's Auto with his dad Peter for years and was on his way to becoming the expert he is now. He inhabited a true bachelor's pad decorated with Beavis and Butt-head posters with three of his close friends in the house that he'd later raise me in. My dad in 1997: charming, friendly, unusual, wild, with a thunderous vibrato but a teddy bear interior. So, exactly the same as he is now, except for the fact that he was newly single.

Already on the island was my mom, Shayna Frageau. Devoted to the beaches well after the party was over, my mom was one in the population of one-thousand that lived on Block Island year-round. While most islanders had to hustle for the summer months in tourist traps before their jobs

shut down for the winter, Shayna was one of the lucky few who had a year-round gig: she worked the desk at the island's only real-estate office. She

had her own apartment decorated with her collection of plants and her own car-- though it didn't have breaks or wind-shield wipers, which is something you could only get away with on Block Island. My mom in 1997: kind, observant, unusual, sophisticated, shy but jam-packed with deep thoughts ready to burst out for the right person. She was also newly single.

They met for the first time at Captain Nick's Rock 'n Roll bar. Over the sound of drunk people laughing and yelling and singing, Bruno and Shayna picked up a conversation with each other that turned the screaming world into mere white noise. Their chemistry was instantaneous. Electric. Undeniable, to themselves and to their friends who were quick to tease them in the loving way that friends do. As luck would have it, Shayna's apartment happened to be above Bruno's friends', setting up dozens of future excuses to see each other. However they both made it clear that they weren't looking for anything long term. They were newly single, afterall: the last thing they wanted was to commit themselves to someone new already, especially someone from another state. They'd be friends for now. Just friends.

Bruno went to visit his friends on Block Island every single weekend that season. You could hear his Harley coming from miles away. That's the whole point, so that people get the heads up that you're coming and don't collide with you. Except that collision was precisely Shayna's idea. It's a tiny island. As soon as Bruno would drive off of the final Friday boat, my mom would be alerted by the familiar roar cutting through the air and she'd find a way to cross his path. Somedays, she'd be sitting out on the porch as Bruno pulled into his friends' share of the driveway. Bruno was always fine with ditching the boys to sit and talk with Shayna for hours and hours. Other days, she'd leave her desk at the agency to go to the Post Office across the street. All of Bruno's friends (the "Agawam guys" as they were collectively known to the locals) worked at the moped shop at the corner, so Shayna would stroll by the store a few times a day, always feigning naivety, with a big stack of letters in her arms. Bruno never failed to greet her outside with a gentle kiss on the cheek. Even on hot sunny days primed for beach volleyball and gnarly surfing, Bruno would skip out on the shore and stick around the moped shop just to get the chance to say "hello" to Shayna as she walked by. They carved out their free time that summer around each other's availability. Their initial chemistry only grew stronger as they got closer. Since there were no expectations for a relationship, they felt no pressure to perform for the other. They were raw and real and earnest, bearing their hearts to each other knowing well that they could be setting themselves up for rejection that way. Yet, their mutual vulnerability only made them like each other more. Both of my par-



SADIE PARROTTA
Guest Columnist



PHONE

413.283.8393
Fax: 413.283.7107
Subscriptions: 800.824.6548

EMAIL

Advertising Sales
John Baskin
jbaskin@turley.com

Interim Editor
Gregory Scibelli
aan@turley.com

Subscriptions
cgiriswold@turley.com

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PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President

INTERIM EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
aan@turley.com

STAFF WRITER
Shelby Macri
smacri@turley.com
Peter Spotts
peterspotts@turley.com

ADVERTISING SALES
John Baskin
jbaskin@turley.com

SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

SOCIAL MEDIA



@AgawamAdvertiserNews

WEB

www.agawamadvertisernews.turley.com

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HOMETOWN ■ from page 4

ents couldn't believe it at the time, but they'd found someone who loved the good, the bad, and the bizarre parts of their characters without question or caveat. But they were still just friends. They were newly single, and still trying to convince themselves that they weren't ready for another relationship just yet.

Columbus Day came too quickly. The shops were shutting down and all of Bruno's friends were gearing up to move back to good ol'e Agawam for the winter. This was it. The end of Bruno and Shayna's subtle summer fling. Bruno promised that he'd be back next summer, but they left it at that, just like they said that they would at the start. They didn't even exchange phone numbers. He packed that Harley Davidson onto the boat one last time as Shayna waved goodbye from the docks. Credits roll. Show's over, folks. Please throw your popcorn buckets in the trash on your way out.

Of course that's not it! Come on, every good movie has a sequel. Roll film. It's the fall of 1997. Friday, October 17th, to be exact. Interior shot: Parrotta's Auto Repair & Sales, Agawam, Massachusetts. The first weekend that Bruno was set to stay in Agawam in almost half a year. Storm clouds overhead. It's getting dark. As the clock ticks closer and closer to closing, the reality of his situation finally set in. Bruno actually wasn't going back. His twin flame was about to be extinguished in the rain and loneliness of three seasons apart. Only Beavis and Butthead by his side at night. In the final hour, Bruno changed his mind.

Shayna was wrapping up at work, preparing to hunker down in her apartment alone for the approaching storm, when the office phone rang. It was Bruno. He said that, if she was okay with it, he wanted to catch the last boat to Block Island to come see her. Not his friends, not the beaches. Just her. Of course, she said yes, secretly having spent the week deeply mourning his departure. She warned him, though, not to bother with the boats, which were destined to be cancelled any minute. He'd have to catch a flight out of Westerly State Airport, and fast. They hung up and Bruno immediately hopped into his dad's half-broken old Ford Bronco and made the race down the I-91 South in the pouring rain. He had almost no time to spare, and Shayna knew it. In fact, maybe he had no time at all. If he was lucky enough to make it to Westerly before they cancelled any remaining flights, by the time he arrived the storm would be a torrential downpour. Bruno could handle raging waves and explosive motors, but being in the air in a sea storm would be a different breed of terrifying. Maybe he'd decide against it and turn back. Or maybe the ticket seller would tell him no altogether and he'd be stuck alone in Westerly during a pseudo-hurricane. She couldn't bear the thought of letting him slip away again so Shayna took a chance on an impulse decision: she'd catch a flight over to the mainland instead and try to catch him there.

There wasn't any time to pack. She grabbed the bare necessities and headed out for the airport in her car without

SOCIAL SECURITY ■ from page 4

for the rest of your life.

In the end, your health, financial need and life expectancy should be the primary factors considered when deciding when to claim.

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windshield wipers. Bruno, a wild man, was making record time as he barrelled into Rhode Island. Shayna arrived at the Block Island airport with literal moments to spare. The planes that go to and fro are about as big as a school bus. Shayna had made the twelve minute flight commute plenty of times before, so even in the rain she was only partially-scared. Bruno, on the other hand, was terrified out of his wits, half-certain that he was buying a ticket to his own funeral.

The Westerly State Airport is small. In 1997, you would walk through the entrance and to your left would be a ticket counter and beyond that was a long hallway with doors and windows that opened out to the flight field. That night, all the doors except for one were closed. Bruno had made it to the airport just in time for the last flight out. As he reached his shaking hand to accept the final flight ticket of the night, Shayna walked through the last door at the very end of the hallway. In the brief walk from her plane to the airport doors, she'd gotten drenched down to the bone. She watched as Bruno accepted the ticket he'd just bought, and her initial thought was that he'd be furious with her. She froze. She'd ruined his chance of coming out to the island that weekend. He'd think she was crazy or stupid for catching a flight over to him when the plan was for him to fly to her. She considered making a run for it to save herself the humiliation, but as soon as Bruno turned his head and met her eyes at the end of the hallway, she knew that she was safe. He didn't care about the island or the money. He only wanted her. The two of them collided in the middle of the hallway in a tight embrace.

They escaped back outside to the Ford Bronco, opting to grab a motel room for the night before safely returning to the island in the morning. In the quiet of the car, the two sat for a moment, reflecting. Bruno was floored that any girl would make such an effort to come see him. Shayna truly was his twin flame, and even the rain couldn't put out the fire that they had in their hearts. In the car, in the rain, in the parking lot of the Westerly State Airport, my dad asked my mom to be his girlfriend. She said yes.

Montage sequence. New Years Eve, they gifted each other those three precious words for the first time: "I love you." In April, they're engaged to be married, having by this point realized what a prize the other person is and unwilling to ever risk the relationship again. They married on August 15th, 1998, in the backyard of my dad's former bachelor pad. One of the "Agawam boys" that spent that summer with Bruno on the island, Marc Scortino, performed music on the half-pipe "stage" that the boys had built in the backyard. Shayna gave out ivy planters as party favors to the guests (grown and potted by herself, of course). Half a year later and my mom became pregnant with me, and I'm born on November 6th, 1999. My little brother, Peter, came along a couple years later, on November 5th, 2002.

Now, we're sitting around the table over plates of bolognese. We slurp our pasta as my parents tell the tale of the summer that kicked off the life we lead now. Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back is playing on the TV above us. The Beavis and Butthead posters are gone, but my mom's plant collection has expanded ten-fold, keeping our home lush with life even as we enter into the cold, dead winter. Bruno and Shayna are still twin flames, and unusual, and in love. The credits never roll.

Library waiting to help

The Agawam Library is here for you. Check out what we're offering for kids, teens, and their families. If you need something to do: Check out <https://www.agawamlibrary.org/children/> OR <https://www.agawamlibrary.org/teens/> for free events & activities to help keep you busy, and happy. If you need something to read: Make an appointment to browse the collection OR request books to be held for you with the C/W Mars app OR call 413-789-1550 ext. 3. We can help you. If you need something to watch or listen to: Check out our streaming services found at: <https://www.agawamlibrary.org/research/ebooks-streaming>

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

Wednesday mass back at St. John

AGAWAM – All are welcome and invited to join us at St. John the Evangelist Church, 833 Main Street, for Eucharistic Adoration, Wednesdays, 12 noon to 5:45 p.m. with Holy Mass at 6:00 p.m. Come and spend some time in quiet prayer with our Lord Jesus Christ, present in the Eucharist.

Church to hold holiday tag sale

AGAWAM – There will be a huge Christmas Tag Sale at Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main St., on Nov. 20 and 21 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. All types of Christmas items: ornament, dishes, home decor and more. Face coverings must be worn and social distancing guidelines will be in place.

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October 21, 2020

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**Deadline for photos and forms is
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Luncheon set for November 19

AGAWAM – The Women to Watch USA Western Mass Chapter Located in Agawam will be holding their November luncheon on November 19, 2020 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Max's Tavern, Hall of Fame Drive in Springfield. It will be held in the outside tent. members and guests are asked to bring a mask and social distancing will be respected. LaTonia Naylor be the guest speaker for the luncheon.

Ms. Naylor's has served youth and families in Springfield for over two decades as a volunteer and eventually earned a Master's in Nonprofit Management and Philanthropy in order to switch career paths into the nonprofit sector. Ms. Naylor has co-founded two nonprofit organizations; (2018) Parent Villages Inc., (2006) VITAL Center, Inc., and advised several nonprofit start-ups, she currently serves in the roles of Director of AmeriCorps and adjunct faculty member at Springfield College and adjunct faculty member at Worcester State University.

The November Women to Watch USA Western MA Chapter Luncheon is being sponsored by Danielle Suza of Fairway Mortgage Longmeadow and also Bling Boutique by Ayanna.

There will be great food and awesome networking and resourcing. There will also be raffle items from members businesses.



LaTonia Naylor will be the guest speaker at the next Women to Watch luncheon. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Grange holding Holiday Bazaar

AGAWAM – Community Grange #382 of Feeding Hills will hold their Annual Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, Dec. 12 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Grange Hall located at 47 North West Street in Feeding Hills. All proceeds will benefit the building fund and the public is invited to attend. Please wear a mask and practice social distancing. Hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes will be available.

Positions open for ZBA

AGAWAM – Please be advised that there are two openings on the Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals effective January 2021. The openings are for one regular position and one alternate position. Interested parties should contact Barbara Bard in the City Council Office at 726-9716 or send in a letter of interest to bbard@agawam.ma.us by Dec. 14, 2020.

Toy sale donation drop-off date set

AGAWAM – The Agawam Zero Waste Club, Agawam Rotary Club, as well as the Agawam High School National Honor Society and SAVE Clubs are working together to organize the 5th annual Holiday Used Toy Exchange. This all volunteer team has modified the annual event to comply with COVID-19 guidelines.

General free public shopping will be online from Wed, Nov 4, through Tues, Nov 10, by going to Agawamrotary.org, selecting desired toys and filling out a form. Participants will be entered into a lottery and will be contacted by phone or email with an appointment. Toys will be distrib-

uted by appointment only at the Agawam Public Library parking lot, drive thru style, on Saturday Dec 5, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Participants must remain in their cars.

Donors that have already submitted pictures of toys for donation by the Nov. 1 deadline, will be contacted by phone or email for an appointment to drop off their toys. Drop off is by appointment only at the Agawam Public Library parking lot, drive-thru style, on Saturday, Nov 21, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Please submit any questions to AgawamZeroWaste@gmail.com.

POLLS ■ from page 1

won election to the state senate earlier this year, defeating Republican John Cain of Southwick. Cain challenged Velis in the special election held in May, then challenged him again for the full two-year seat.

Velis took over earlier this year after former State Sen. Donald Humason was elected mayor of Westfield. Overall, Velis received 49,656 votes in the 11-town district of the Second Hampden and Hampshire District. He received 64 percent of the vote. Cain only received 27,907 votes.

Nicholas Boldyga continued his successful run of turning away Democratic challengers from Agawam as he defeated Agawam School Committee member Kerri O'Connor

Boldyga won in each of the four towns he represents. He received 13,806 votes, 62 percent of the overall votes cast. O'Connor received 8,242 votes. In Agawam, Boldyga garnered 9,171 votes to O'Connor's 6,322. The Third Hampden District consists of Agawam, Southwick, Granville, and Russell. Boldyga, a Southwick Republican who was once

a Select Board member there, has been challenged in almost every election, all by Democrats from Agawam. He has never been defeated in Agawam.

O'Connor is a two-term School Committee who was running for state office for the first time. She said she would look at running for office again in the future.

Another big race was to elect a new Register of Probate. Rosemary Saccomani would end up getting the win. She defeated Lori Landers-Carvalho. Both were staff members at the probate office, but Landers-Carvalho was endorsed by the outgoing Register of Probate.

In Agawam, Saccomani, a Democrat, received 8,563 votes to Landers-Carvalho's 5,067.

Town voters also voted in line with two ballot questions, with a majority voting in favor of Question 1, which passed, and against Question 2, which failed.

A total of 16,148 votes were cast by Agawam voters, through specific breakdown numbers of how those voters participated in the election was not released.

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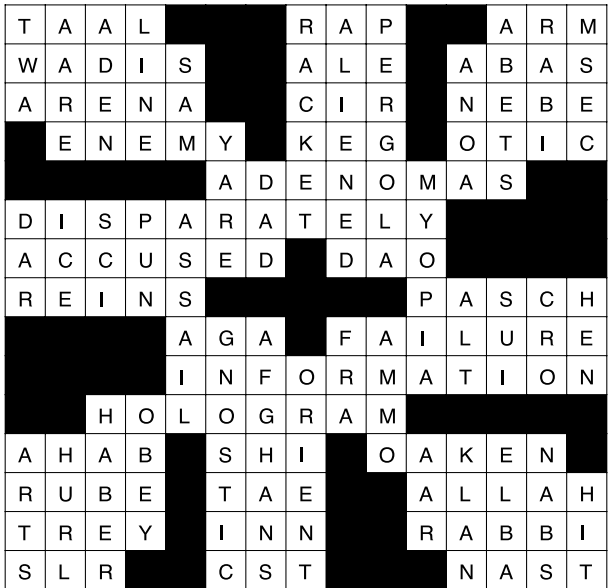
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ARREST LOG

The Agawam Police Department responded to 414 calls for service from Nov. 2 to Nov. 8 and recorded the following arrests. No arrests in the public log have been omitted. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty.

There were no arrests recorded during the past week.



History, Crafts and Thanks this month at the Agawam Public Library

AGAWAM – November is a busy month at the Agawam Public Library. We are pleased to be hosting a few activities that are sure to appeal to a wide variety in our community. Join us all month as we collect notes of gratitude for our Thankful Project. This year has been challenging in every aspect of our daily lives. As 2020 comes to a close, we would like to acknowledge the positive and record the things that our community is thankful for. Leave us your note of gratitude in person, through email, by phone or social media and we will be sure to inscribe your sentiment on the community pumpkin. Our goal is to fill a pumpkin with the big and little things that we are thankful for during this season of gratitude.

On Monday, November 9 at 7:00 p.m., the library is hosting history teacher and lecturer Christopher Daley as he presents 1620: The First Year. As the 400th Anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrims approaches, we are reminded of the trials and tribulations of the Pilgrims. The first part of the talk will examine the difficult voyage over the Atlantic and the decision to land on Cape Cod rather than the intended destination; near the Hudson River. The second part of the talk will focus on the beginnings of Plymouth Colony with a short discussion on the history of "Plymouth Rock." Then the discussion will turn to the original aboriginal inhabitants of Patuxet and the plague of 1618 that obliterated nearly 100% of the village and where the site of that village might have been. Also, the laying out and building of the colony will be illustrated with a street diagram of the first dwellings and their inhabitants. The final part of the talk will recount the early scant encounters with the Wampanoag people, the ap-

pearance of Samoset followed by a description of the arrival of Massasoit and his retinue in March of 1620/21 and the treaty he forged with the people of Plymouth. This program will be presented on Zoom. Please register on our website: www.agawamlibrary.org or call 413-789-1550.

The Bizarre Bazaar is back! Got any spare holiday ornaments, bows, or wreaths? Any unused needlework, craft foam or scrapbooking supplies laying around? We will be seeking donations of leftover or unused craft or holiday items so that "shoppers" can find new supplies. For everyone's safety, we can only accept items in original packaging or in clear, plastic bags. Items must be from a smoke-free home. Sadly, we cannot accept any loose materials. Holiday trees and decorations must be no taller than 3 feet high. Donation days will be November 3, 5, 7, 10, 12 and 14 during regular library hours. Please place items in the marked bin in the library's front lobby. Do not place items outside the library. Shoppers can join us by appointment on November 17, 19 and 21. Please call the library to make an appointment during regular library hours at 413-789-1550.

Our Adult Grab and Go Craft Bag will feature another two-for-one special. Inside, there are materials included to practice learning a calligraphy alphabet and a special ornament to create for the new year. Online registration for the craft open November 1, please visit our online calendar to register or call the library. Supplies are limited, so only serious inquiries, please.

Please call the library with any and all inquiries. 413-789-1550. Our online calendar is also available on our website, www.agawamlibrary.org

Outdoor park re-opened for activity

REGION – Mia Santos-Izak, Director of the Woronoco Heights Outdoor Adventures, announces November fun with the Western Massachusetts Council's popular WHOA program. Last month, over 70 youth and their families converged on Moses Scout Reservation's 1300 acres of wilderness for a day of fun and adventure. Groups from around the county, including Agawam, Springfield, Granby and other towns enjoyed a sunny fall day of activities ranging from Amateur Radio programs to mountain biking to tomahawk throwing.

With the COVID-19 hiatus over, WHOA's director says their adventures will continue on Saturday, Nov. 14 beginning at 9 a.m. Visitors can expect to experience such exciting activities as tomahawk throwing, five miles of mountain bike trails (participants need to bring their own helmet), geocaching, nine hole disc golf course, tomahawk throwing, scavenger hunt bingo, escape rooms and much more. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions the registration cost for all these activities remains at \$10 per person, regardless of age.

Regarding the COVID-19 regulations, Director Santos-Izak also advises all participants and WHOA staff that various modifications to the usual WHOA programs have been instituted. Participants will be required to preregister and prepay on-line at; <https://www.wmascouting.org/WHOA202011>. No walk-ins or onsite registrations will be permitted. Additionally, registrations will be limited to the first 85 people and participants will be asked assemble into groups of twelve or fewer individuals. Typical social distancing will be practiced with mandatory face coverings required at all times whether outside or when in enclosed areas. A full list of WHOA's COVID-19 modifications are found on their website at <https://www.wmascouting.org/WHOA202011>

Each month Woronoco Heights Outdoor Adventures presents activities taking advantage of the Horace A. Moses Scout Reservation's 1300 acre camp, a few minutes from I-90 Exit 3, at 310 Birch Hill Rd. in Russell MA. Open-



Archery is one active being offered at Woronoco Heights. SUBMITTED PHOTO

ing at 9 a.m. and going until 3 p.m., the fee for the Nov.14 WHOA is only \$10 per person. The ever-growing list of activities are open to all. One does not need to be a Boy Scout to take part in a WHOA Saturday. Families, children, teens, adults, clubs, teams and others may participate. All proceeds benefit various improvement projects and programs at the Horace A. Moses Scout Reservation. More WHOA information may be found at; <https://www.wmascouting.org/WHOA> to preregister on line see; <https://www.wmascouting.org/WHOA202011>

WHOA's director states, "It's late fall in the hills of the Berkshires so guests are suggested to be prepared and dress warmly by wearing layers of clothing. Wear what will keep you warm, sneakers are really a "no, no" as the terrain may be rocky, muddy or even icy. Sturdy footwear will help keep one's feet warm and provide better support over uneven terrain. However, for those who might get chilled, the camp's trading post will be open under a limited guest capacity." As Director Santos-Izak exclaims, "WHOA! Rain, snow, or shine it doesn't get any better than this!"



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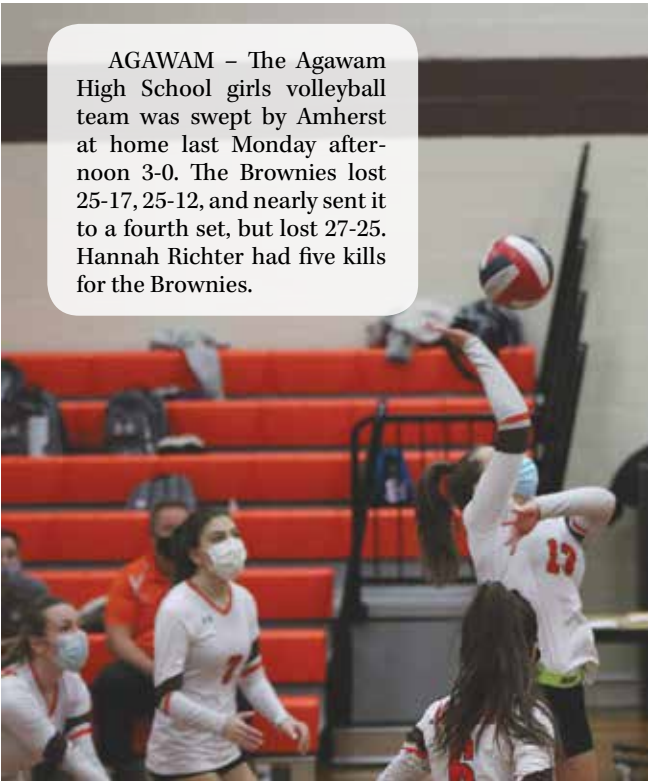
SPORTS

VOLLEYBALL

Brownies swept at home



A pair of Brownies attempt to block a spike.



AGAWAM – The Agawam High School girls volleyball team was swept by Amherst at home last Monday afternoon 3-0. The Brownies lost 25-17, 25-12, and nearly sent it to a fourth set, but lost 27-25. Hannah Richter had five kills for the Brownies.

Sulamita Yukhimets tries to get the ball over the net.



Emily Ehresman reacts to a serve from the other side. PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Hannah Richter sends a hit across the court.



Julia Sweeney attempts a block.



Vanessa Iodlovskaya sends the serve away.

FALL SPORTS

New formula releases schools from 'red' status

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – Fall sports will conclude over the course of this week and next week. Many schools, like Agawam, built a schedule that had teams finishing in the first or early in the second week of November in order to build in time to make up games before the Nov. 20 cutoff date.

Thanks to a revised formula by the state government, however, further shutdowns of most high school sports should be avoided.

Unfortunately, a few schools called it quits for the season before the formulas were re-done.

Last Friday, a revised formula to gauge “high-risk” communities for the spread of coronavirus was released. The result was every community outside of Springfield being removed from high-risk or “red” status.

A number of school temporarily shut down sports due to high-risk status, including Monson, Palmer, Amherst, Granby, Chicopee, and Minnechaug.

Minnechaug and Palmer were nearly shut down for extended periods of times, but the new metrics allowed the schools to both return to action earlier this week.

Unfortunately for a couple of schools, the new numbers came back too late.

Granby, which shut down its fall sports for a minimum of two weeks on Oct. 29, made the decision at the end of last week to discontinue the fall season.

Holyoke, which had to end its fall season

FALL SPORTS | page 9

WINTER SPORTS

Early indications show winter season can be played

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – Guidance issued by the Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs has opened a path for winter sports to be played.

Combined with the revised method in which towns and cities in Massachusetts will be measured for risk of COVID-19 transmission, there are indications that basketball and hockey as well as swimming and indoor track will be allowed to have limited competition.

Back in the summer, the sports of basketball, football, lacrosse, and hockey were listed as high-risk sports because of sustained close contact that would likely result in COVID-19 transmission.

Soccer was also part of that designation. This caused summer basketball, soccer, and lacrosse leagues to be cancelled.

Soccer was eventually removed from the high risk designation and games were allowed to be played with modified rules during the high school season.

Basketball and hockey are still considered high-risk, but the EEA guidance allows for limited competition to be played. That limited competition will more than likely be the type of “bubble” play that fall sports were played under. The bubbles are

WINTER SPORTS | page 9

Sports

Despite delayed season, T-Birds to support cancer cause

SPRINGFIELD – Today, the Springfield Thunderbirds announced they will be supporting Hockey Fights Cancer Month throughout the month of November, with an added assist by New Valley Bank who will be donating \$2,500 to the cause. Founded in 1998 by the National Hockey League and the National Hockey League Players’ Association, Hockey Fights Cancer (HFC) unites the hockey community in support of cancer patients and their families.

Throughout the month, the Thunderbirds will collect names on social media from fans for people they “fight for.” New Valley Bank & Trust has committed to donate \$5 for each submission received to the Thunderbirds’ Foundation, for the first 500 submissions. At the end of the month, the Thunderbirds’ Foundation will make donations to the NHL’s Hockey Fights Cancer charity, along with several local cancer-related organizations. In addition to the \$2,500 contribution from New Valley Bank, the Thunderbirds will also be collecting monetary donations on their foundation website, as well as holding a specialty game-worn jersey raffle from previous events.

“Hockey Fights Cancer has been an incredibly important cause for our organization and across the AHL and NHL. We are grateful to New Valley Bank to step up and support this cause with us. I can’t wait to see all of the ‘I Fight For’ signs downtown this month, but also look forward to a time where these donations and research can help lead to a cure for cancer,” said Thunderbirds President Nathan Costa.

The Springfield Thunderbirds have re-

mained engaged in the community despite the delay to the AHL season, which was recently pushed to February 5th, 2021. In a traditional season, the Thunderbirds would be recognizing Hockey Fights Cancer month by hosting a game dedicated to the cause, complete with signature Lavender-themed jerseys and a post-game auction to raise money for the campaign. In the absence of the game this year, the organization will be activating on social media and throughout the community by encouraging fans to share who they fight for. As an added visual element to the campaign, all names submitted will be posted on “I Fight For” placards at the New Valley Bank & Trust branch at Monarch Place in downtown Springfield for the month of November.

“Local businesses and families are fighting through the pandemic and New Valley is right by their side. We can’t think of a better way to make a positive contribution to the community as we approach the holiday season than to support Hockey Fights Cancer,” said New Valley Bank & Trust President and Chief Executive Officer Jeff Sullivan.

Individuals interested in supporting the campaign can submit a name for someone they fight for on the Thunderbirds Facebook page and Instagram account, or by filling a placard out in person at the newly-opened New Valley Bank & Trust lobby at Monarch Place in downtown Springfield. Individuals can also contribute to the Thunderbirds’ Foundation directly: <https://www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/3391100>.

Tryouts announced for Pioneers

LUDLOW – WUP FC is excited to hold WINTER TRYOUTS for the 2020-2021 season. Tryouts are for Boys and Girls of all age groups (2012 - 2002 birth years). An open house for younger ages can be scheduled upon request.

Developmental Academy: players born in 2013-2015

First Kick: players born in 2016

Tryouts will be held from Nov. 16 to Nov. 20 at Lusitano and Ana Dias Middle fields. There are various tryout times for

age groups and more information can be found at www.westernunitedpioneers.com. This registration session will allow you to complete contact information, and sign up for participation. Please read through each page carefully to ensure that all information is provided accurately.

We want to create the safest environment for your player due to COVID19. Each player should bring water, a ball, shin guards, and wear a mask.

FALL SPORTS ■ from page 1

on Oct. 22 after three weeks in the “red,” called off it season once it had been in the red for three weeks.

Chicopee and Minnechaug had to postpone a number of games at the end of last week. As a result of the revised formulas, those games have the opportunity to be made up.

West Springfield, which plays in a bubble with Agawam, can also resume sports if it wishes.

Agawam High School Athletic Director David Stratton said a number of schools that have lost games due to COVID-related shutdowns. He said in situations like

Holyoke where they have shut down their sports, teams in their bubble try to find other games.

“The goal for most sports like soccer, field hockey, or volleyball was to have at least 10 contests,” said Stratton. “In most bubbles, you play everyone twice. But we would pick up a third game against a team in our bubble if we needed one to get to 10.”

With COVID formulas changing, teams should be able to have enough time to finish up the fall season without much difficulty. When the fall season wraps up on Nov. 20, winter sports will be able to begin the following week.

WINTER SPORTS ■ from page 1

geographic in nature, and have worked out rather well.

The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association had to cancel the fall tournaments and has also moved to cancel winter tournaments, but the EEA guidance shows hope for a modified basketball seasons within the bubbles teams will play in.

With the winter season set to start at the end of the month, basically on time for a normal winter season, and set to go from December to Feb. 21, it is not yet known how many contests could be played during that period of time. Basketball and hockey seasons are typically 18-20 games, but the desire to limit contact could limit the number of contests allowed.

Also, due to the fact the sports are played indoors, it is possible fans could be banned from most ice hockey arenas and school gymnasiums.

One sport that will only be allowed to practice and have zero competitions is wrestling. Wrestling is deemed to have too much close sustained contact to be allowed to have competitions between schools. It is unknown if wrestling will be moved to the “bubble” season like football, or if it will be cancelled altogether.

The MIAA and Department of Elementary and Secondary education are in the process of coming up with rule modifications for basketball and hockey, which will be coming in the next month.

Help feature your student-athletes

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

The fall season is nearing its end and Turley Publications has been all over the action.

But with this unpredictable season there have been temporary or in some cases, permanent stoppages in play, and we still want to help feature your athletes, especially those who are seniors this year.

We continue to ask for help on this season in order to bring the best coverage we can possibly manage and fill our pages with names and color.

We know that fans will be limited to the home crowds, but that is where you all come in.

We have a limited number of staff to start the school year due to the pandemic, and while we strive to get to as many games as possible, we cannot get to everywhere.

If you are a parent, coach, or even player, and you have information or photographs to

share, we definitely want to hear from you.

If you don’t see one of our photographers at a game, please feel free to send your own action photos of games in order to bolster our coverage. If you are interested in regularly submitted photos, please do contact us.

Otherwise, we would love to hear from anyone who reports scores, details, and any milestones that occur during this unprecedented season. Please be sure the information you provide us is accurate and check with coaches, if necessary, before submitting.

Additionally, with the various senior games that have been held already or are still waiting to be held, we welcome submitted photos from those events and information about graduating seniors who participated in Fall 1 sports.

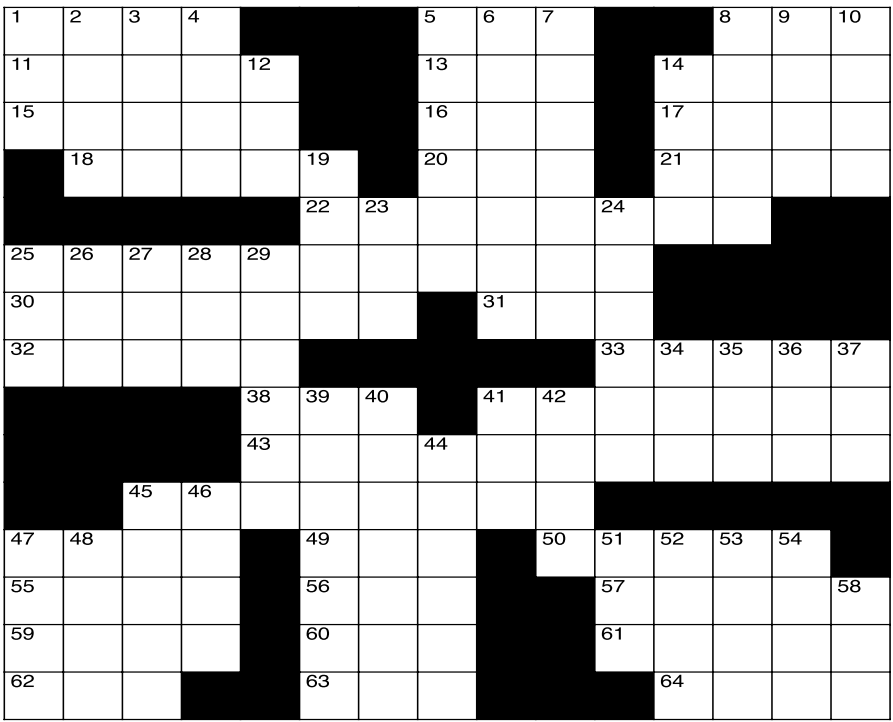
We also encourage all coaches to submit their results and details as much as possible. Send any and all information and photos for inclusion to sports@turley.com.

Turley Sports joins Instagram

Turley Publications sports department has recently joined Instagram. You can find our account by searching “turleysports.” We will regularly feature samples of photos that you will see in our publications on a weekly basis. Please follow and share with your

friends and loved ones. We will be featuring photos from all 11 of our sports sections in the coming weeks, but as always, you can see all the photos that appear by subscribing to your local paper or picking up a copy in your community.

Find us online: www.sports.turley.com



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Dutch word for “language”
- 5. Popular music style
- 8. Body part
- 11. Largely dry valleys
- 13. Brew
- 14. Ancient Greek sophist
- 15. Where rockers play
- 16. Human gene
- 17. One point east of northeast
- 18. Adversary
- 20. Small cask or barrel
- 21. About ear
- 22. Benign tumors
- 25. In a different way
- 30. One charged with a crime
- 31. Chinese principle underlying the universe
- 32. Long, narrow straps
- 33. Passover
- 38. Ottoman military commander
- 41. One who does not succeed
- 43. Data
- 45. 3D image
- 47. Whale ship captain
- 49. Japanese title
- 50. Made of wood
- 55. Yokel
- 56. Exercise system
- 57. Supreme being
- 59. Playing card with three spots
- 60. Hostelry
- 61. Spiritual leader
- 62. Single lens reflex
- 63. Time of the 90th meridian, used in the central U.S.
- 64. Thomas __, American cartoonist

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Shuttered airline
- 2. Swiss river
- 3. Port city in Yemen
- 4. It can be straight
- 5. Tennis player’s tool
- 6. Estranged
- 7. Garden archway
- 8. Assists
- 9. Grain crop
- 10. Millisecond
- 12. U.S. Founding Father
- 14. Small, deerlike buffalo
- 19. Easily manageable
- 23. Male parent
- 24. Nearsightedness
- 25. Patriotic women
- 26. Decorate a cake with frosting
- 27. __ fi (slang)
- 28. A joke rooted in wordplay
- 29. Attack violently
- 34. Keyboard key
- 35. __ juris: independent
- 36. Corporate executive (abbr.)
- 37. Adult female bird
- 39. Pertains to knowledge
- 40. Pashtoes
- 41. Prefixed title for Italian monks
- 42. To be fired from a gun
- 44. A way to position
- 45. __ process: produces ammonia
- 46. Follow instructions
- 47. Humanistic discipline
- 48. Throw
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. American hate group
- 53. Actor Idris
- 54. Seizes
- 58. Baseball stat

Classifieds

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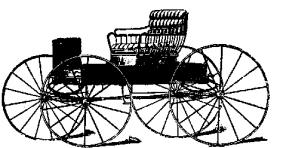
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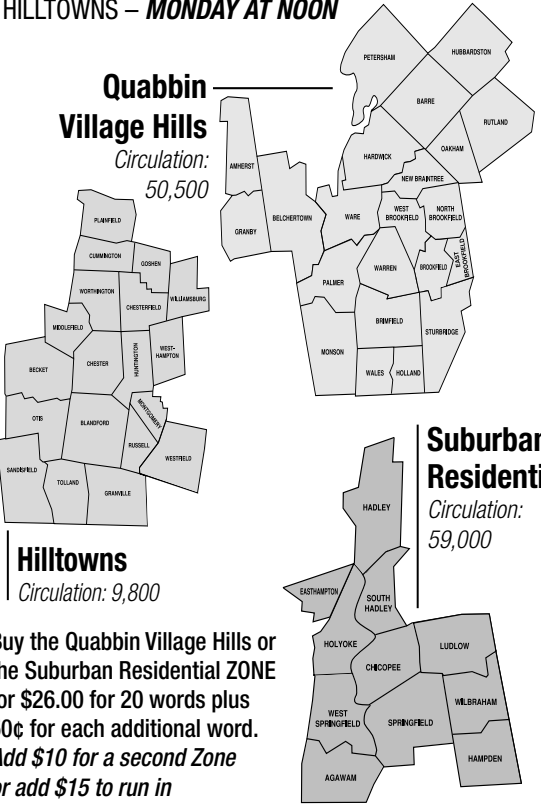
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SUMMARY OF POSITION: The Asst. DPW Director is responsible for assisting the Director in the provision of administrative and supervisory duties pertaining to highway/grounds/cemetery, fleet maintenance, engineering, and any other tasks that are assigned by the Director. Employee will be required to perform all similar or related duties as required. For full job description, go to www.townofpalmer.com. Submit resume and letter of interest or Town application to Town Manager's Office, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069. Application can be mailed to 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or by e-mailing rmcnutt@townofpalmer.com. Open until filled.

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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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Public Notices

Notice of Private Sale
Notice is hereby given by USA Towing, 71 Garden St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030, sale of a motor vehicle pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. C. 255, Section 39A, that on December 04, 2020 at 8:00 a.m., at USA Towing, said motor vehicle will be sold at a private sale to satisfy the garage keeper's lien for towing, storage and costs of sale.

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Jean Tailleir
104 Norfolk St.
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11/12, 11/19, 11/26/2020

AGAWAM CABLE COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Agawam Cable Commission will hold a public hearing via Zoom on **Thursday, November 19, 2020 at 6:00PM** for all parties interested regarding the cable television license renewal agreement between Comcast and the Town of Agawam.

Join Zoom Meeting:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87662010250?pwd=VDd4Zis4NnJhY2YxYjFQMFIUUXIaQT09>

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Calls must be made by 6:00PM to provide testimony.
Robert Goff, Chair
Cable Commission
11/05, 11/12/2020

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD13P1154EA Estate of: Richard Homar Hannah Also known as: Richard H Hannah Date of Death: 02/09/2013 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL

ADJUDICATION
To all interested persons:
A Petition for **S/A- Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment** has been filed by **Claire T Hannah** of Feeding Hills, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Claire T Hannah** of Feeding Hills, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve on the bond in an **unsupervised** administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/08/2020.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: November 03, 2020
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate

11/12/2020

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD20C0188CA In the matter of: Franky Soto, Jr. CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME
A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Franky Soto, Jr. of Agawam, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Frankie Rivera
IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/04/2020.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: October 30, 2020
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
11/12/2020

LEGAL NOTICE PUBLIC HEARING AGAWAM CITY COUNCIL

The Agawam City Council will hold a public hearing on **Monday, December 7, 2020 at 7:00 P.M.** in the Auditorium at the Agawam Junior High School, 1305 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA. The purpose of

this hearing will be to hear the petition of Agawam Mayor William Sapelli on a zoning amendment to Chapter 180, Section 147 of the Code of the Town of Agawam (TOR-2020-6). Any member wishing to provide testimony during the Public Hearing on TOR-2020-6 may do so by dialing **1-978-990-5187** and using access code **8476635** followed by # sign. **Calls must be made at 7:05 p.m. to provide testimony.** This remote public hearing will be live-streamed on the Town of Agawam's website at www.agawam.ma.us and will also be televised on Cable Access Channel 15. TOR-2020-6 is available for public inspection by emailing the office of the City Clerk for an electronic copy at vgioscia@agawam.ma.us

BY ORDER OF:
Christopher C. Johnson
City Council President
11/12, 11/19/2020

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

Public Notices

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 Docket No. HD14P1201PM In the matter of: James J D'Amato Of: Agawam, MA Protected Person/ Disabled Person/ Respondent CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF CONSERVATOR'S ACCOUNT

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, you are hereby notified pursuant to Rule 72 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court, that the **Sixth account(s)** of William P D'Amato of Easthampton, MA as Conservator of the property of said Respondent has or have been presented to the Court for allowance.

You have the right to object to the account(s). If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court on or before **10:00 A.M. on the return date of 11/30/2020.** This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to object to the account(s). If you fail to file the written appearance and objection by the return date, action may be taken in this

matter without further notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s).

Additionally, within thirty days after said return day (or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order), you must file a written affidavit of objections stating the specific facts and grounds upon which each objection is based and a copy shall be served upon the Conservator pursuant to Rule 3 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court.

You have the right to send to the Conservator, by registered or certified mail, a written request to receive a copy of the Petition and account(s) at no cost to you.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 02, 2020

Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
11/12/2020

How to submit legal notices

All legal notices to be published in the Agawam Advertiser News should be sent directly to notice@turley.com. Please indicate the newspapers and publication date(s) for the notice(s) in the subject line of your email. For questions regarding coverage area, procedures or cost, please call Jamie Joslyn directly at 413-283-8393, ext. 216.

Turley Publications Inc. publishes 15 weekly newspapers throughout Western Massachusetts. Visit www.turley.com for more information.

Schools

Agawam High School Counseling Bulletin

Visiting College Representatives: If you are interested in meeting with College or University Representatives that will be conducting virtual visits at our school, you must sign up in Naviance at least one day in advance. Google Meet or Zoom links will be provided when you sign up.

November 12:
9:20 AM Springfield College
10:10 AM Siena College

Reminders:
Members of the Class of 2021 should familiarize themselves with the information that has been posted to the Post-Secondary Planning section under the Counseling tab of the High School webpage. Most recently, the Senior College Application Packet was added, which is a great resource for students interested in applying to two- and four-year colleges. https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/937652/Senior_Application_Packet_2020-2021.pdf

The COVID-19 pandemic has created uncertainty among students and families about nearly all aspects of the college admission process, including the role of standardized testing. We were scheduled to host testing in November, but did not feel it was prudent to have students from “red” area and states in our building. We looked into hosting school day testing for just Agawam students, but the next available date is in March. Due to the cancellation of SAT and ACT testing dates, more than 1,630 US colleges and universities announced they are moving to a test-optional policy, and more will surely follow. By going test-optional, institutions are making a definitive statement that they will not need test scores to make admission decisions this year. Despite the change in policies, high school students and their parents are asking, “Does test optional really mean test

optional?” The answer, simply put, is: yes. Please keep in mind that some colleges may require SAT or ACT scores for certain majors and/or the awarding of merit money. We encourage you to contact any schools that are of interest to you (website, email, or phone) to confirm that test scores are not required for your intended major and/or the awarding of merit money. All students should be checking their Naviance accounts on a regular basis. There is so much valuable information for all students, whether you’re headed directly into the work force, the military, or college upon graduation from AHS. If you can’t access your account, please be in touch with your School Counselor.

Open Houses/Informational Sessions/Discovery Days:
The New England Association for College Admission Counseling (NEACAC) registration page for the Virtual Fall College Fairs is now open. Partnering with GoTo-CollegeFairs, NEACAC is excited about this opportunity for students to explore virtual “booths”, chat with admission representatives, watch presentations, and much more. More than 250 institutions will be exhibiting at the College Fair on Sunday, November 13 from 1-3 PM. Registration is required, but is free! Register now at neacac.swoogo.com/NEACACVirtual and follow the steps to gain access to the fairs. The Professional Arts Consortium will be hosting its very first ProArts College Fair on Wednesday, November 18 from 5:00-7:00 PM. This event will be an opportunity for artistically inclined students to learn more about our member schools and ask our admissions teams questions regarding the application process, financial aid, programs, and more. For those of you who are not familiar with ProArts, we are a consortium comprised of seven Boston-based art schools, including Berklee College of Mu-

sic, Boston Conservatory at Berklee, Boston Architectural College, Emerson College, Massachusetts College of Art and Design, New England Conservatory, and the School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts University. Colleges and universities will be hosting information and recruitment events, in a variety of formats, in the next couple of months. Check the colleges’ websites for more information and to confirm the date and time of the event. While campus visits may look and feel different during this time, it is important to take advantage of these programs to learn as much as you can about the schools that are of interest to you.

Scholarship Information:
See your counselor or visit the websites below for more information or an application.
Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC): This scholarship program offers students the opportunity to earn their degree and receive valuable leadership and management skills while enjoying the benefits of an exciting career. Several requirements exist. The deadline for submitting an application is December 31, 2020. Please visit public.navy.mil for details. Exceptional student leaders are invited to apply for the 2021 GE-Reagan Foundation Scholarship Program. In honor of the legacy and character of President Ronald Reagan, this program annually rewards up to 20 college-bound students who demonstrate exemplary leadership, drive, integrity, and citizenship with \$10,000 renewable scholarships (up to \$40,000 per recipient). More information is available at reagan-foundation.org. Applications will be accepted online until January 5, 2021. The 2020 Profile in Courage Essay will be offering a first place prize of \$10,000, a second place prize of \$3,000, and \$1,000 for

five finalists. The maximum word count is 1,000 with a minimum of 700, not including citations and bibliographies. The deadline for submission is January 15, 2021. More information is available at jfklibrary.org/essaycontest
Tenaska, founded in 1987, is a privately held energy company committed to being good neighbors in the communities where its plants are located. To express that commitment, scholarships are offered through the high schools located in the counties with plant operations (Berkshire Power Company in our area). Applicants must be a 2021 graduating high school senior who plan to attend a two- or four-year post-secondary education program at an accredited institution. The scholarship amount is \$1500, and applications, which are available at Tenaska.com/scholarship-form, are due no later than February 12, 2021. The Asian Pacific Community Fund (APCF) has multiple scholarship awards to give to eligible high school seniors. The application on the website is not yet open, but is expected to go live on November 20. Applications are due no later than Friday, April 2, 2021. More information is available at apcf.org/scholarships The American College Foundation (ACF) is offering a Visionary Scholarship, with multiple winners selected to each receive between \$1,000 and \$5,000. The application process is quick and easy and financial need is not considered. All may apply. The application is available at American-CollegeFoundation.org and the deadline is May 1, 2021. The creators of the “Student Award Search Aid” website are offering the B. Davis Scholarship for 2021. Please visit studentawardsearch.com/scholarships.htm to read about the program and to apply for the scholarship. The amount of the award is \$1,000 and the deadline is May 24, 2021.

HCC opens registration for January, spring terms

HOLYOKE – Registration is now open for January and spring 2021 semester classes at Holyoke Community College. HCC’s two-week January term, called Winter session, begins Mon., Jan. 4, and runs until Fri., Jan. 15. The spring 2021 semester begins Mon., Jan. 25. HCC will also once again be offering two additional “flexible” start dates for the spring semester. Spring Start II classes begin Feb. 16 and run for 12 weeks. Spring Start III classes begin March 29 and run for seven weeks. All spring classes conclude by Wed., May 12. “Our flexible fall start dates were very popular with students who were not ready to begin classes at the traditional time in early September because of uncertainties surrounding the pandemic,” said Mark Hudgik, HCC director of Admissions. “For spring, we wanted to again offer flexible start dates to give students as many opportunities as possible to either begin or continue their college educations.” Because of ongoing concerns related to COVID-19, HCC will continue to offer the majority of its classes remotely through the

2021 spring semester. Like most colleges, HCC started remote instruction in mid-March after the COVID-19 pandemic forced campus closures. This fall, all HCC classes are being offered in one of three formats: online, blended remote, and blended face-to-face. Winter session and spring semester classes will follow these same formats: Online courses offer a traditional, asynchronous online model with coursework deadlines established by instructors. Blended remote courses have both asynchronous online components combined with real-time scheduled class meetings via videoconference platforms such as Zoom. Blended face-to-face combines blended remote with some in-person instruction on campus. For the most part, this format is limited to health science programs that require clinical labs, such as nursing, radiologic technology, veterinary technician, and medical assistant. Last month, HCC also started offering some of its culinary arts classes face to face in the kitchens of the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute on Race Street in downtown Holyoke.



Registration for spring classes is now open at Holyoke Community College. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Writing contest deadline coming soon

AGAWAM – The Agawam Cultural Council is sponsoring a writing competition for all Agawam Public School students. The topic is “Facing the Challenges of the Coronavirus - How did you do it?” Entries will be accepted from Oct. 15 through Nov. 30, and the winners will be chosen by members of the Agawam Cultural Council. Monetary prizes will be awarded to first, second, and third-place winning entries. The requirements for entry into this competition can be found on the ACC website and by contacting the librarians for each of the schools in Agawam. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Jane Augusti at (413) 241-7196 or by email to:

maryjane.augusti@gmail.com. For more information on the activities and virtual offerings of the Agawam Cultural Council during the current pandemic stay-at-home order, please visit their web site, at: www.agawamcc.org. The Agawam Cultural Council is an all-volunteer local partner of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, and is funded, in part, by the MCC. The ACC is charged with bringing engaging, entertaining, and educational events and opportunities in the arts, humanities, and sciences, to children and adults from Agawam and the surrounding communities.



EARLY DEADLINE

To Celebrate **THANKSGIVING**

AGAWAM ADVERTISER NEWS

Advertising Deadline will be

Thurs., Nov. 19, Noon

for the Thursday, Nov. 26 edition

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